

2 November 1970

1. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILEA. INTRODUCTION

On 24 October the Chilean Congress elected Salvador Allende, 151 for 35 against 7 abstentions, to a six-year term as President of Chile. This is the first time a Marxist Chief of State has been elected in the Western Hemisphere. On 3 November Allende and his cabinet, which includes three Communists, will take office.

B. PUBLIC EVENTS

During the Interregnum the following events transpired:

1. Frei advised several military officers that he would not oppose a coup, perhaps even welcome it, but took no positive action to foment one. When a coup situation presented itself after the assassination of General Schneider, Frei moved quickly to restore the situation to normal.
2. Frei and Alessandri coordinated a plan whereby Alessandri not withdraw his name from contention, in the congressional confirmation of the vote. In exchange Alessandri was promised that Frei would line up the PDC party congressional delegation behind Alessandri if Alessandri then promised to withdraw upon election and permit a new electoral consultation. Alessandri stayed in the race. Frei could not deliver the PDC congressional vote and, indeed, made no great effort to do so. Alessandri felt betrayed and asked the National Party to support Allende. Thus, the last chance for a political solution to bloc Allende disappeared. This abortive agreement also left a legacy of increased distrust between the democratic forces of the National Party and the PDC who are single minded about destroying each other rather than Allende.

Approved for Release
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